

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Matanuska-Susitna Borough****Federal Tax ID: 90-0699180****Project Title:****Project Type: Planning and Research**

Matanuska-Susitna Borough - Palmer Hay Flats Trail - Alaska Long Trail

State Funding Requested: \$100,000**House District: 11 / F**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Planning is needed for an important route along the north side of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$100,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2023 State Funding Request:	(\$100,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Palmer Hay Flats Coastal Trail is a proposed scenic route along the north side of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. The result would make a major contribution to the recreation opportunities in the core area of the borough while providing for neighborhood connectivity.

PHF incorporates these two proposed trails from the 2016 MSB's Recreational Trails Plan (https://www.matsugov.us/docs/general/14086/trailplanupdate2016_final.pdf):

168. Knik-Fairview (proposed)

A proposed trail connecting the Fairview Loop Road area to the Knik Lake area. The Borough acquired easements over private land on portions of the trail, but key sections of the proposed route are through subdivisions.

248. Cottonwood Creek Wetlands Trail

Cottonwood Creek Wetlands Trail is located off Hayfield Road in the Knik-Fairview area. This trail is used in the winter by hikers, skiers, snowshoers and snowmobilers, and in the summer/fall by hikers, hunters and ATVs. Motorized use subject to seasonal conditions set forth by Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

There is evidence that the Historic Iditarod Trail crossed the Palmer Hay Flats connecting Eklutna to the village of Knik (a portion is RS 2477 Wet Gulch Trail RST 1710 and dog musher reports https://www.members.tripod.com/knik_alaska/id80.htm). Re-establishing the Historic Iditarod Trail in this area would support heritage preservation.

Project Timeline:

2023

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

ADF&G, Mat-Su Borough, Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☐ Yes ☒ No